

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 6, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in this application, where claims 10-12 have been added, and claims 1 and 8-9 are independent.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061267 (Dunstan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,441 (Glasssen) and U.S. Patent No. 7,139,242 (Bays). Claims 7 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dunstan in view of Glasssen, Bays and U.S. Patent No. 7,194,689 (Manni). Further, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dunstan in view of Glasssen, Bays and U.S. Patent No. 6,728,633 (Mikuriya). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dunstan in view of Glasssen, Bays and WO00/49944 (Obrink). Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dunstan in view of Manni,

Glasssen and Bays. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are patentable over Dunstan, Glasssen, Bays, Manni, Mikuriya and Obrink for at least the following reasons.

Dunstan is directed to a system 100 that polls a device 100 which sends its ID information 110. The system 100 determines whether the received ID information 110 is already stored/known to system 100. The system 100 will then either control the device if the information already exists in system 100, or the system 100 will retrieve information from a manufacture web-site depending upon ID information 110.

Glasssen is directed to a method and apparatus for automatic generation of I/O configuration descriptions. In steps 37-38 of FIG 6A, a program issues START SUBCHANNEL (SSCH) specifying the programmable subchannel and providing a channel program containing read-configuration-data command to the channel subsystem. The channel subsystem initiates an I/O operation and passes the read-configuration-data command to the addressed I/O device. If the I/O operation is successful, the channel subsystem receives a configuration-data record (CDR) from the addressed I/O device which it stores in a program-designated location in main memory. The CDR

uniquely identifies the control unit that was used to receive the read-configuration-data command, and uniquely identifies the addressed I/O device. The program saves, in Step 38, the control-unit identifier in a list to be examined later.

Bays is directed to the control and application of policies for routing data over a network. A user is able to remove a peer from routing a control device by supplying information that uniquely identifies the peer. Instead of removal of the peer, the peer configuration can be retained in the system rule set in a routing control device database 24 for future use by being marked as inactive.

It is respectfully submitted that Dunstan, Glasssen and Bays, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8-9 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

storing a second configuration description identified by a second configuration identifier received from the second device so that the storage medium of the first device includes the first configuration description and the second configuration description of the second device associated with the first configuration identifier and the second

configuration identifier, respectively,
receiving from the second device the second configuration identifier, and
in response to the received second configuration identifier, changing the second configuration description to active while the second device continues to be connected to the network and continues to offer services to the network with reduced interruption.

Changing the second configuration description to active while the second device continues to be connected to the network, and continues to offer services to the network with reduced interruption, is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Dunstan, Glasssen, Bays, and combination thereof. Manni, Mikuriya and Obrink are cited to allegedly show other features and do not remedy the deficiencies in Dunstan and Glasssen.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8-9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101